Maine Sea Grant Program 2011 NSGO Review

Michael Liffmann

Program Management

- Management Team
  - Director, Paul Anderson, (1.0 FTE)
  - Program Administrator/Fiscal, Lynn Wardwell (1.0 FTE)
  - Extension Leader & Educator- Beth Bisson (1.0 FTE)
  - Communicator, Catherine Schmitt (1.0 FTE)
  - Assistant Director for Research, Jim McKenna (0.17 FTE)

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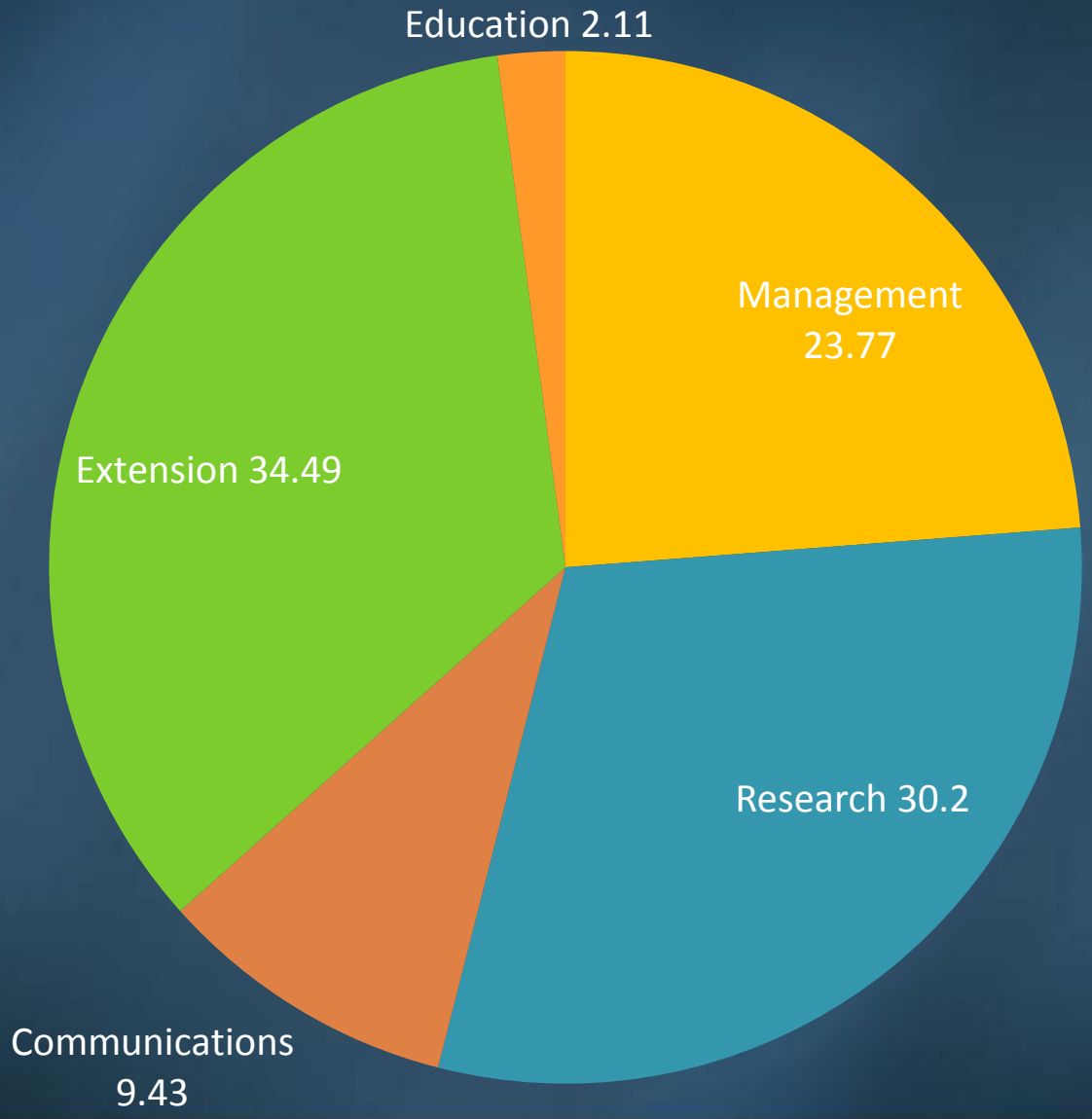
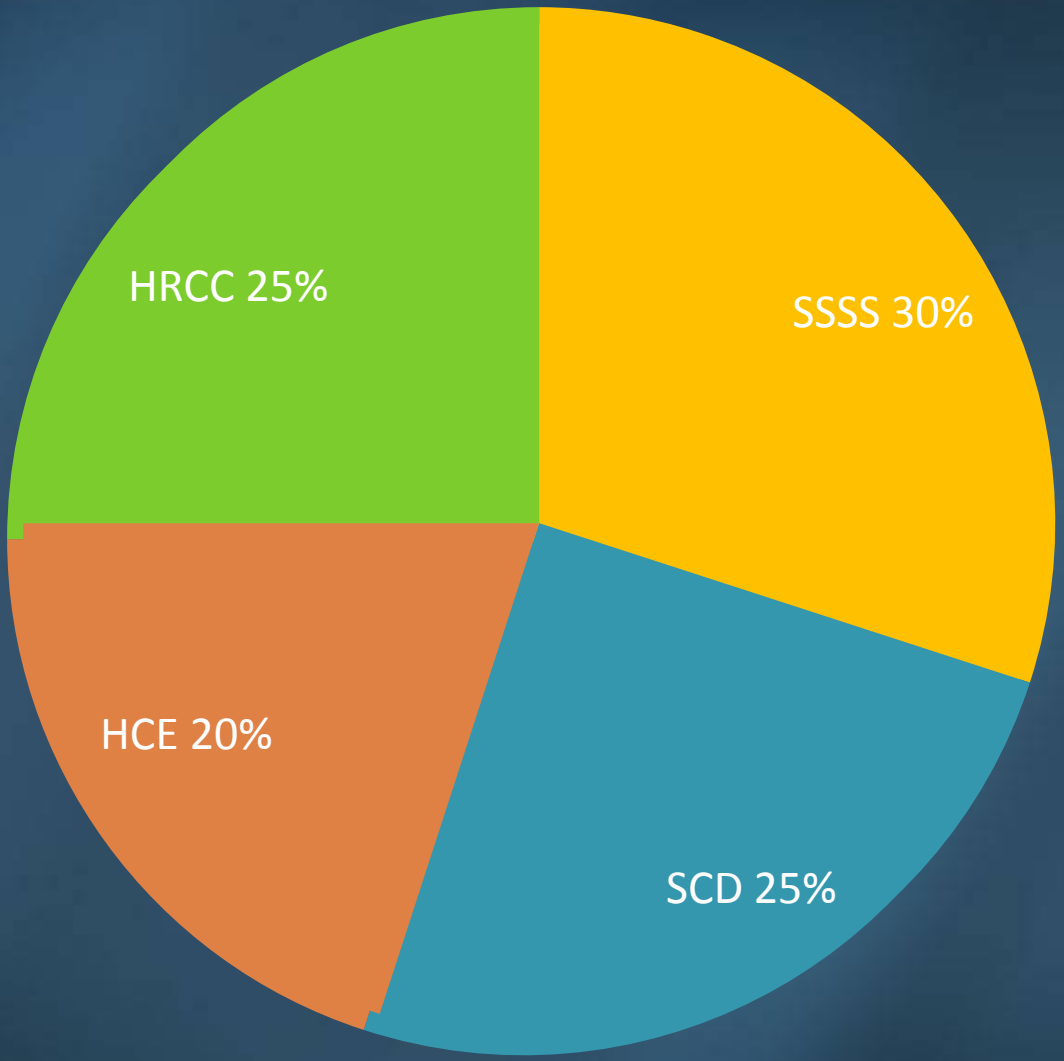
Functional Area	# of individuals	# of FTEs supported by SG	# of FTEs supported by match/leverage
Mgt/Admin	4	2	2
Comm.	3	2	1
Ext.	8	4	4
Education	1	1	0
Research	6	1	1

- Small Program

Maine Program Budget-Functional Areas



Maine Program Budget- Focus Areas



Maine-Significant Program Changes (since Jan. 2010)

- Susan White– Associate Director for Outreach retired;
- Beth Bisson– took Susan's place while continuing to serve as Education Coordinator. Liaison with Assembly of SGE Leaders

Maine--Requested Changes to 2010-2013 Program Plan

- None yet

Maine-Program Performance Measures

- Number of coastal communities that have adopted or implemented sustainable development practices and policies
- Number of tools, technologies, and information services…
- Number of fishers, consumers and seafood industry stakeholders who modify their practices

Maine--Contribution to National Performance Measures and Metrics

- National number of SSSS stakeholders modifying practices =205,612; Maine= 145
- K-12 students reached thru educators- 3116
- Total number of curricula developed -3
- SG funds and match- $1.7M

  Leveraged funds- $1.3M
  - Managed by SG- $164,273
  - Influenced by SG- $1,171,524

Maine--Program Impacts

Sea Grant produced climate change assessment prompts legislation for statewide adaptation planning

Maine Sea Grant worked with 75 scientists from the University of Maine and other institutions to produce Maine Climate Future: An Initial Assessment. The report, requested by Governor Baldacci and delivered in February 2009, prompted the state legislature to initiate a climate change adaptation stakeholder process, coordinated by the DEP.

Based in part on needs identified in that process, Sea Grant and Cooperative Extension partnered with the Climate Change Institute and the Maine State Climatologist to create Maine Climate News, an online resource for statewide weather and climate updates, research descriptions, and news, www.extension.umaine.edu/maineclimatenews/.

Maine--Program Impacts

Maine Sea Grant public access resource is national model

Across Maine and the US, access conflicts among diverse waterfront users are resulting in substantial economic, social, and environmental impacts in coastal communities. Of Maine's 5,300 miles of coast, only 20 miles support water-dependent industries, and the majority of commercial access points are privately owned and vulnerable to conversion.

Workshops conducted by Maine Sea Grant, in collaboration with many state partners, identified a strong need for information about legal mechanisms for addressing waterfront access issues. The NSGLC funded a public access information website that five other states (NJ, VA, MS, AL, HI) are now using to produce their own information.

Maine--Program Impacts

Sea Grant research improves fishing safety in Maine

Maine's commercial fishermen have had a difficult year, with seven fishing-related deaths in Cobscook Bay alone.

After dozens of interviews aboard Maine fishing vessels, Tufts University researcher Mary Davis found that fishermen consistently under-rated the risks of working on the water. Fishermen in locations that are more isolated from Coast Guard training efforts and stations, such as Downeast Maine, had a lower level of preparedness.

Prompted by the number of deaths in the eastern Maine urchin industry, the lack of safety training of dive tenders, and to some extent by this study, the Sea Urchin Zone Council and DMR staff developed an online Diving Safety Course that is required for those who want to be licensed for tending fishermen diving for urchins and other hand-harvest fish. Since the course was available in December, 25 new diver tender licenses have been issued.

Maine --2009 Research Accomplishments

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Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission adopts Sea Grant model

- The American lobster (Homarus americanus) supports one of the most valuable commercial fisheries in the United States and the largest fishery in Maine. Landings have increased steadily since the early 1970s, and fishing effort is intense and increasing throughout the species' range. For decades, fishermen and scientists have disagreed about methods used in assessing the lobster stock status.

  Sea Grant research Yong Chen developed a new computer model based on lobster size that accounted for many factors, including seasonal patterns and lobster biology. Different management scenarios can be plugged into the model to predict results of different fishing activities. The Chen models have helped confirm that v-notching practices , for instance, has made a difference in the lobster fishery by protecting reproductive stocks. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission adopted Chen's model for determining the status of lobster fisheries, and the health of lobster stocks. The model was first used in the 2009 assessment.

Maine --2009 Research Accomplishments

Sea Grant research informs smelt management rules

Rainbow smelt is an anadromous fish listed by the NMFS as a species of concern due to the effects of harvesting, water quality and habitat degradation, inaccessibility of spawning grounds, and possible disease issues. As part of a study to conserve and restore wild populations of rainbow smelt within the US Gulf of Maine watershed, the Marine Extension Team established two index sites in Washington County for monitoring spawning smelt populations and collecting information on water quality and habitat status. Additional smelt spawning areas have been identified throughout Downeast Maine.

Results from this monitoring effort have contributed to regulations enacted on December 21, 2009 that provide additional conservation measures for smelt in Maine

Maine --2009 Research Accomplishments

Sea Grant wave forecast model predicts dangerous conditions

On Maine's 3,000 mile coastline, surface waves can be the most energetic elements of the physical oceanography affecting coastal communities and habitats. Building on previous Maine Sea Grant-funded wave modeling studies, Texas A & M researcher Vijay Panchang developed a detailed atlas of fine-resolution wave climates in coastal Maine and a computerized wave prediction system for forecasting wave heights.

The complete dataset has been transferred to the US Geological Survey in Augusta.